

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A device for the continuous casting of metal, in particular, steel, comprising a lifting platform which can be driven in an oscillating fashion by means of a drive device, further comprising a continuous casting mold received on the lifting platform, as well as a stationarily arranged support frame which is provided with guiding or bearing elements for the lifting platform, wherein such a guiding or bearing element is an elastic spring system (61a to 64a, 61b to 64b), comprised of two spring legs (201, 202; 301, 302) arranged angularly relative to one another, which spring legs extend perpendicularly to the oscillation direction, respectively, wherein the two spring legs are formed like a tuning fork and wherein ~~the~~ respectively overlapping upper and lower ends (211a, 211b, 212a, 212b; 311a, 311b, 312a, 312b) of the two spring legs form the support surface for the lifting platform (3a, 3b) or the connecting surface with the stationarily arranged support frame (2a, 2b), and wherein the spring system, in addition to the force in the oscillation direction, compensates by load balancing disturbing forces in directions perpendicular to the oscillation direction.

2. (Cancel)

3. (Previously amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein the spring system of the two spring legs is formed of a single part configuration or a two-part configuration.

4. (Previously amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein the spring leg is comprised, respectively, of a leaf spring (201, 202, 301, 302) bent to a U-shape or of two leaf spring elements (401, 402, 501, 502) which are connected with their free ends to one another in a detachable way.

5. (Previously amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein the spring system can be fixedly locked on the lifting platform and is arranged so as to be adjustable on the support frame.

6. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein the lifting platform is comprised of two lifting platform elements (3a, 3b) which can be driven in an oscillating fashion by means of a drive device (4a, 4b), respectively, and wherein the two lifting platform elements are arranged spaced apart from one another receive the continuous casting mold (13) such that it extends between them and the strand is removed between the two

lifting platform elements (3a, 3b), and in that the support frame is also comprised of two support frame elements (2a, 2b) for receiving a lifting platform element, respectively.

7. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 6, wherein a lifting platform element (3a, 3b), respectively, is provided with four spring systems (61a to 64a; 61b to 64b) for load balancing, wherein ~~the~~ a foot area of the lifting platform element (33a, 33b) rests by means of two connecting elements (71a, 72a; 71b, 72b) on two spring systems and the lifting platform element is provided at the head end with two projections (81a, 82a) which rest on the two other spring systems, wherein the spring systems are arranged staggered to one another.